000 mountains surround narrow ravines, where spring water trickles. The
137 country is almost entirely wooded; it is virgin forest in all its vigor, and the most varied species grow there side by side; the imposing silk-cotton tree, Eriodendron anfractuosum, the large-leaved chestnut tree, Sloanea massoni, the logwood tree, Haematoxylon campecheanum, the mahogany tree, Swietenia mahogany, the anatta-tree, Bixa orellana mingle with palms of all sorts, gigantic bamboos and a multitude of arborescent ferns. All these trees are interlaced with endless lianas, and in their midst, giant like, rise splendid gum-trees, Dacryodes hexandra, from whose trunks one can cut an entire canoe.
441 The district is crossed, at some distance from the coast, by a road which is well-defined but not practicable for carriages, which is part of the road which makes a complete circuit of the island. In the part which crosses the Carib territory, one /135/ finds a few paved sections,
132 which date from the French occupation. The climate is humid and it rains frequently, even during the dry season. The temperature varies between 25° and 32° C., but the ocean breeze moderates the heat at all times and in the mountains there is always a certain freshness.

144 This part of Dominica is today inhabited by about a hundred
161 Caribs of pure stock and about 400 mestizos, who have some black-blood.

142 The Carib is of medium height, but has fine muscles and is strong; the women are noticeably smaller than the men. Their eyes are black, comparatively small and somewhat set back, the cheek-bones prominent, the teeth white and well-set, the hair black, straight,
[303] shiny, quite long, but generally cut amongst the men; the latter are usually beardless, although some have, nevertheless, a short moustache. The skin is quite light or tends to be somewhat brown, but it is no darker than that of Europeans who live in the open in regions
291 where the sun is very hot. Formerly the Caribs were completely
302 naked and it was their custom to completely stain their bodies red
[75] with roucou (1) diluted /136/ with carapat oil, which protected them against insect bites,

[324 396] 1. Roucou or rocou, from the word urucu used by the natives of Brazil, is the word for the grains of the roucou tree, from which they extract a red dye. The roucou tree, a shrub of 4 to 5 meters in height, is very common in the Antilles.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Because it was the most hostile and mountainous of all the Lesser Antillean islands, without flat lands for cultivation or a safe harbor for shipping, Dominica was long considered unworthy of capture (3) (66). As late as 1748 the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle assigned it « to the undisputed possession of the native Indians ». Even after the British occupation in 1760 the Caribs continued for many years to be an important independent group which inhabited the windward coast and the high wooded interior of the island. Today the few remaining families of Caribs on Dominica's rugged eastern coast are all that remain of the once powerful island tribes.

The same rugged physiography, which delayed and hindered the expansion of the white man and of the imported negro in Dominica has not only permitted the Carib to linger on but has also safeguarded various species of the biota, including those of native origin as well as those brought to the Antilles by the Indians. Orrr (39), for example, has shown that half a dozen species of birds are peculiar to Dominica. In the reptilian and mammalian groups there are also endemic representatives. Fortunately the immigrant mongoose which has caused such havoc to the native fauna in certain of the neighboring isles has not yet migrated to Dominica.

Of her vegetation and flora Dominica can truly boast, for of all the Caribbees here is one of the richest, the least despoiled, and perhaps the closest to its original natural state. This tiny island of but 300 square miles has more forested land than any other island in the Lesser Antilles, Trinidad excepted. But already the destruction of the forests has begun, initiated by the widespread tropical habit of continually shifting the cultivated plot. Forest land is cleared and planted to native subsistence crops only to be abandoned after several years use when the fertility of the soil has been exhausted. Worthless and woody trees, exemplified by certain species of the genus *Miconia* (locally known as bois krékré), are favored by the progressive clearing of the forest. Until recently the lack of proper forestry regulations helped to darken the picture, and valuable trees such as laurier de rose (*Cordia* sp. [1]) and Spanish Cedar (*Cedrela odorata* L.) have rapidly

[1] Names of the authorities are omitted in the text if the species is treated in the systematic enumeration that follows.

[test continues on p. 516.—Ed.]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

137 declined in numbers. Many of the more desirable species are *arbres de chasse*, the distribution of their fruits aided by native doves and forest pigeons. The extinction of such « hunter's trees » tends to reduce the avian population. The inevitable result is a depletion of both fauna and flora.

177 All these are signs that Dominica may no longer continue to be a natural West Indian reservoir of wild life. The Caribs are also in danger. Negro infiltration and the coming to the Indian Reserve of a church, of a school, and of a police station have led not only to the abandonment of the Carib language but also to the loss of much of the tribe's stock of nature-lore.

The opening up of new land has pushed the forest much farther from the Caribs' homes than it was even thirty years ago. Difficulty in obtaining from the forest those raw materials needed in basketry and in dugout canoe building has brought about a gradual decline of these and allied crafts. One result is that the [241] Caribs now have more time to spend tending imported crops planted in their provision grounds. These gardens, like all others in Dominica, are cultivated without deep digging or manuring on the primitive system of clearing and burning the forest, gathering one or two crops, and moving farther afield. Another result [227] of the retreat of the forest is a decrease in the number of hunters. These men were naturally the best acquainted with those wild plants which could be of use while in the woods. Moreover many « medicines » and vegetable « charms » were operative for success in the chase; and the knowledge of the virtues of such plants [824] remained the property of individual hunters or of their families. The loss of the hunter class has thus meant the loss of much plant-lore.

177 The addition of an extension to the Imperial Road (the principal 491 high road of Dominica), which now practically cuts the island in two, will probably complete the process of culture disintegration and of forest disintegration. With these will go still more of the plant-lore and, as elsewhere in the West Indies, the road system may even lead to the extinction of many interesting species.

121 From the above it is easy to see that an ethnobotanical paper on the Island Carib is timely. The value of ethnobotany as an aid in tracing the origin and migrations of peoples and in ex-

[text continues on p. 518 - Ed.]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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●137
[342]

Fig. 10

[49]

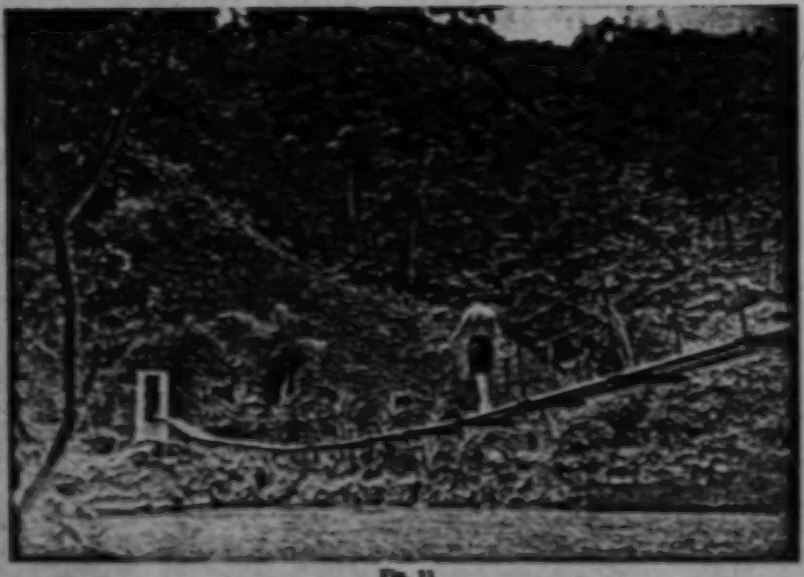

Fig. 11

Contemporary Carib huts and landscapes in Dominica. — Fig. 10 – Carib frame dwellings near the Crayfish River in the Reserve. — Fig. 11 – Footbridge over the Pagua River near its mouth.

[Opposite p. 539]